

**THE AMERSHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

... OF ...

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**



**FOR THE YEAR
1920.**

To the Chairman and Members of the AMERSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to lay before you the Report upon this district for 1920.

The disease returns not only shew a reduction compared with those of last year but also the infections were generally of a milder type. The great pandemic of Influenza has subsided causing 9 deaths this year as against 17 in 1919. Cerebro-Spinal Fever never gained a foothold nor was there any recurrence of Small Pox in this district, though several foci developed elsewhere. The Birth Rate has risen from 13·3 in 1919 to 19·4 in 1920. The Deaths have decreased 15 per cent. in the same period. The Council's numerous housing schemes are well forward. I must express my sense of indebtedness to your Inspector, Mr. Crowhurst, for his thorough work sustained throughout the year.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. SHERWOOD NEW.

Causes of Death.

Amersham Rural District—1920.

Civilians only.	Males.	Females.
Whooping Cough... ..	1	1
Influenza	6	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis... ..	12	5
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	1
Other Tubercular diseases	—	3
Malignant Disease	17	16
Rheumatic Fever	—	—
Meningitis	2	—
Organic Heart Disease	12	11
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	5
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	2

Civilians only.	Males.	Females.
Puerperal Fever	—	1
Parturition apart from Puerperal Fever	—	1
Congenital Debility	4	6
Suicide	2	2
Other diseases	35	40
	<hr/> 101	<hr/> 100

INFANTILE DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.
Under 1 year of age—Legitimate ...	10	12
„ „ Illegitimate ...	—	—

POPULATION

As taken for Births and Deaths computation, 24,030.

	Males.	Females.
Total Births	236	231
Legitimate... ..	225	215
Illegitimate	11	16

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Causes of Death under 1 year of age.

PRENATAL AND NATAL CONDITIONS.

		Age.—Days.
Prematurity 3	10	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
Marasmus 3 (including twins)	10	19 21
Acute Jaundice 1		1
Sepsis 1		3 months

POST NATAL CONDITIONS.

						Weeks.
Convulsions 1						5
Alimentary affections 2						4 9
Respiratory affections 7						
Bronchio Pneumonia 5	1	1	7	8	8	
Whooping Cough 2				8	4	
Total				18		

Infectious Diseases notified during the Year.

Scarlet Fever... ..	32
Diphtheria	9
Enteric Fever	2
Puerperal Septicæmia	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	7
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	4
Removed to Hospital:					
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2

Tuberculosis.

Deaths during the year referred to various forms of this disease, occurred as follows:

Pulmonary...	...	...	...	...	17
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	2
Other forms	...	...	...	...	3

These figures include cases in outer districts which were referable to this area.

Notifications for the year	...	...	...	13
Percentage notified	...	...	...	59 ⁹ / ₁₀

Open Air Shelters.

These continue to do most valuable work in restricting the spread of the disease.

At present in use	4
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Drainage of Chesham Bois Parish.

A public enquiry was held by Mr. Irons of the Engineering Staff of the Ministry of Health on December 16th, at the Board Room of the Infirmary, Amersham.

A very detailed investigation was made into the possible ways of dealing with the lower lying property, and the matter was left for further conference between the Authorities concerned.

Housing.

The Council's Housing Estate, Back Lane, Amersham. This pre-war scheme of 12 cottages, arranged as six pair, is now completed, including connection to the main sewer. The property is now all let.

Statement under Article V. of Housing Regulations, 1910.

Number of Houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Act	235
Number of such Houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders... ..	None
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made by the Local Authority	None
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	31
Number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied after the making of closing orders	None
Demolition orders made	None
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by Local Authority and cost recovered	None
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by Local Authority and costs not yet recovered	None

General Character of Defects Found.

(1) Drainage	9
(2) Closets	4
(3) Water Exposure	0
(4) Insufficient circulation of air	12
(5) Dampness	22
(6) Insufficient light	12
(7) Dirty by tenants default	8
(8) Dirty by landlord's default	3
(9) None.	
(10) None.	
(11) Internal structural	19
(12) Defective roofs, gutters, and down pipes	7

Summary of Housing Schemes
undertaken by the Council as at 31st December, 1920.

	Contract let for.	In course of erection.	Let.	Pro- posed.
AMERSHAM :				
Back Lane ... ..	...	...	12	...
White Lion Road	16	16	...	...
Piggott's Orchard	22	22	...	...
ASHLEY GREEN :				
Whepley Hill... ..	2	...	...	...
Village	10	10	..	...
Chalfont St. Giles... ..	...	...	...	20
Chalfont St. Peter .. ..	...	...	...	24
CHARTRIDGE :				
Bellingdon	4	...	...	...
Ashridge	2	..	...	...
Village	6	...	...	...
Chesham Bois	14	14	...	...
Coleshill ... ..	...	..	...	8
Latimer (Ley Hill)	12	12	..	...
GREAT MISSENDEN :				
Prestwood	12	12	...	...
South Heath	12	12	...	...
LITTLE MISSENDEN :				
Kennel Farm	8	8	...	...
Little Kingshill	8	8	...	...
Holmer Green	12	12	..	...
Hyde Heath	4	4	...	...
Seer Green	8	8	...	..

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

I.—GENERAL.

Number of Inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	52
Nuisances detected without complaint	...	...	...	...	...	159
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	285
Formal	...	...	...	...	...	93
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	192
Nuisances abated:						
By persons responsible	...	...	...	...	...	302
By Council	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Summonses	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	nil

II.—HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Spouts cleaned and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pavements repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	27
Other house defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	87

III.—W.C.'s, DRAINS, ETC.

Drains cleansed, repaired, or ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	15
New drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s constructed	...	...	...	...	...	8
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
W.C.'s initial water supply	...	...	...	...	...	5
Earth closets, privies repaired	...	...	...	...	...	22

IV.—WATER SUPPLY.

Houses supplied with water, formerly without	...	...	...	...	...	13
Samples of water analysed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Good	...	...	...	4	...	
Bad	...	...	...	1	...	
Cisterns cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wells closed	nil

V.—FOOD.

Surrenders of unsound food, All Tuberculosis—Bovine	27
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VI.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register	14
Number of inspections... ..	37
Number of defects found	8
Number of defects remedied	8

VII.—BAKE HOUSES.

Number on register	25
Number of inspections... ..	46
Number of defects found	11
Number of defects remedied	11

VIII.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of dairymen or purveyors of milk on register ...	30
Number of cowkeepers on register	26
Number of inspections... ..	2 each
Number of defects found	14
Number of defects remedied	14

IX.—FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on register	21
Number of inspections	2 each
Number of defects found	9
Number of defects remedied	9

X.—VARIOUS.

Visits to infected houses	3 each
Houses disinfected	51
For Phthisis	27

